



## **SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING**

### **December 2, 2013**

### **6 P.M.**

#### **Special Meeting**

The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 6 p.m.

#### **Present**

Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo and Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Mary A. Bartolotta, Carl R. Chisem, Gerald E. Daley, James B. Streeto, Sebastian N. Giuliano, Sandra Russo Driska, Deborah Kleckowski and David Bauer; Sergeant-at-arms Police Chief William McKenna; and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.

#### **Absent**

Mayor Daniel T. Drew Council Members Mary A. Bartolotta, Hope Kasper Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan.

#### **Also Present**

Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, City Attorney Brig Smith, Acting Personnel Director Kathy Morey, Deputy Chief of Police Michael Timbro, Acting Parks and Recreation Acting Director Deb Stanley, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Director of Health Joseph Havlicek, MD, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, City and Town Clerk Linda Bettencourt, Emergency Management Director Bruce Driska, Russell Library Director Arthur Meyers, Youth Services Coordinator Justin Carbonella Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and 4four members of the public.

#### **Meeting Called to Order**

The Acting Chair, Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo calls the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Call of Meeting Read**

The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Acting Chair declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

#### **Workshop Opens**

Councilman Serra asks for Director William Russo, Public Works; Mr. Russo comes forward to respond to questions regarding the bid waiver. He states it is on the GSA website and there was significant savings for the John Deere; to get this other piece of equipment, they need to get a bid waiver. Councilman Serra asks why; Mr. Russo responds that the greaser that deals with the John Deere is not listed and they want to get the appropriate equipment. Councilman Serra asks if it jeopardizes the warranty if they don't get the right piece of equipment; Mr. Russo responds yes.

Councilman Giuliano asks for Bill Warner, Director of Planning, Conservation and Development. He asks on 10D, the Urban Design consultant and is that specifically for Metro Square and the Arcade. Mr. Warner responds the Arcade, CarToons, Metro Square, the Police Station and Courthouse. If the City develops the parking garage, it should be done with the area in mind. Councilman Giuliano asks if they are interested in selling; Mr. Warner responds no, but they are interested in the parking garage development. Councilman Giuliano asks if the consultant is in communication with our designer. Mr. Warner responds yes.

Councilwoman Russo Driska asks for Linda Bettencourt, Town Clerk. She asks why is your transfer coming from contractual into elections. Ms Bettencourt responds there is not much left in the administration line. You know the Council cut us by 10% and election line is down to \$3,600; she had a primary for Planning and Zoning and the election. Last year, it was two senate seats and president. My budget is static and I am transferring from a line where bills are not due until the spring. Councilwoman Russo Driska states you are looking in other places; she asks if there will be an appropriation in the spring. Ms Bettencourt responds yes.

Councilman Streeto compliments Ms Bettencourt on a smoothly run election and thanks her for that. Ms Bettencourt states her staff is exceptional.

Councilman Serra asks for the Finance Director. He asks about the auditors. Mr. Erlacher states the reasons for them, they are the experts in the industry. They handle New Britain and as far as fees, they are leaving it flat this year and up 2% the following year. Councilman Serra s asks what they do. Mr. Erlacher responds they review our work. They audit our books and records and give an opinion on those books and records. It will be 2.4% over two years. Councilman Serra states we are saving money to do this. Mr. Erlacher responds yes.

Councilman Daley asks Mr. Erlacher they do the majority of municipalities in Connecticut. Mr. Erlacher responds that is true. They do 45 – 50 of the largest towns and some small towns. Councilman Daley states their history, does that save us money. Mr. Erlacher responds yes; there is some costs that would occur if they

did not know how we do things. They are familiar with our books and records and it cuts our fees. Councilman Daley states we had Skully and Wolf for many years. Mr. Erlacher responds yes, they were merged.

Councilman Giuliano asks the last go round they put their A team here; Mr. Erlacher responds we have had the same in charge for the last six years. The partner in charge is the managing partner in the firm.

The Acting Chair asks if there are any further questions; hearing none, he calls for a motion to adjourn.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Councilman Serra moves to adjourn and his motion is seconded by Councilman Bauer. The vote is unanimous and the Acting Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD  
Common Council Clerk